

BRIDGES / 2023 - 2024



Biennial Report - International Bridges to Justice



IBJ believes that skilled defense attorneys, equipped with adequate training and support, are the key to unlocking the full potential of the access to justice movement.

International Bridges to Justice is a non-governmental organization, Swiss Association, and US 501c3, in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

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Message from the CEO

Karen Tse

Dear friends and partners,

Across 2023 and 2024, I witnessed the resolute courage of IBJ lawyers who stand in police stations at midnight and in crowded courtrooms at dawn, bravely defending the bodies and rights of the accused. They see that no person facing the full weight of the state is ever alone. Their everyday acts of courage unfold in a world where headlines show that civil society space is shrinking, economic instability is mounting, and democratic values eroding. At the same time, development aid has reduced even as threats to due process and rule of law expand.

Owing to the commitment of the defenders and actors of the broader justice ecosystem that IBJ builds and fortifies, progress does not stall. It multiplies.

In Myanmar, even amid deep political upheaval, our defenders stand as resilient pillars of hope, securing justice for more than 3,400 individuals, including nearly 1,000 political detainees. In Burundi, our teams conduct weekly visits to police stations in Bujumbura, documenting rights violations and securing the release of individuals held unlawfully. In Rwanda, IBJ's community-led rights awareness campaigns have reached more than 2 million people, equipping them with tools and knowledge to claim their legal rights.

IBJ's commitment to early legal intervention transforms lives. Because of our work, individuals receive competent legal counsel within hours of arrest – protecting them from abuse, torture, and the irreversible harm of delayed justice. And IBJ embraces the day-to-day charge of training and equip



-ping lawyers, police officers, and justice officials to defend rights and strengthen justice systems from within.

These past two years have brought extraordinary gifts to be present alongside our defenders on the frontlines. In Indonesia, I found hope in Jakarta, Batam, Makassar, and Kupang, where we conducted trainings for heroic women lawyers who are defending criminalized women in detention centers and prisons, many of whom are also survivors of gender-based violence. In Kigali, I was honored to deliver the opening words for our Advancing Human Rights in Rwanda project, funded by the European Union. IBJ Rwanda brought together prosecutors, police, corrections leaders, and civil society to align on due process and strengthen justice protections. Moreover, in Gaziantep, Türkiye, I came together with a group of gutsy IBJ lawyers who had crossed the border from Syria to join us. Together, we discussed the future of Syria's legal system and the escalating challenges in the northwest. Despite such immense hardship, these defenders remain

undaunted, carrying our methods and tools back into Syria to uphold rights in one of the world's most difficult environments.

IBJ has also continues to lead with innovation. Our JusticeHub tools and mobile apps are connecting people to counsel at the earliest possible stage, while our training and Communities of Practice are equipping defenders and players in the broader justice ecosystem to exclude forced confessions, challenge illegal evidence, and improve bail practice. This is IBJ's practical, inside-the-system approach: the way torture ends and fairness becomes the default.

IBJ continues to carry its message to global tables. We hosted interfaith gatherings and dialogues on creative courage, pathways to peace, and faith in action. Time and again, I was reminded that IBJ's work is not only justice work but also cooperative work. Bridges between sectors, traditions, and nations are the infrastructure of human dignity, and IBJ has been forging these for 25 years.

None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication of IBJ's defenders and the firm support of our donors, partners, and volunteers. Your belief in our mission sustains our momentum and magnifies our impact. Together, we strengthen networks, transform justice systems, and bring hope and illumination to every corner of the globe.

If there is one overarching lesson of these two years, it is this: the antidote to despair is justice design. At IBJ, when we design early access to counsel, rights-respecting procedures, and defender communities that learn and lead together, we do not just win cases. We amplify access to justice, bringing outcomes at scale.

As IBJ enters its next quarter century, I remain steadfast in my commitment to build a world where justice is not a privilege for the few, but a right guaranteed to all. With every IBJ defender trained, every individual whose freedom we help restore by ensuring access to a lawyer, and every policy we advance, we move closer to that vision. And let's not stop until it is fully realized.

Thank you for building this with me. Thank you for believing, with clear eyes and steady hearts, that, ending torture and ensuring fair trials is not only necessary, together it is possible.

With hope and resolve,

Reverend Karen Tse



Founder and CEO

International Bridges to Justice

Message from the Chairman of the Board

Daniel R. Fung, Chair, International Bridges to Justice

Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2023 and 2024, I am reminded of the extraordinary resilience and vision that continue to define International Bridges to Justice. These two years have been both a test of conviction and a triumph of collective will. At a time when the rule of law faces profound threats worldwide, IBJ has not only held its ground, but expanded its reach, innovated its tools, and deepened its impact for millions.

At the heart of our progress lies a recognition: that justice must evolve to meet the realities of today's world. From pioneering AI-driven solutions such as Kanoon Varta in India, which restores dignity to incarcerated individuals by giving them direct access to their own case information, to the expansion of IBJ's JusticeHub ecosystem linking defenders, volunteers, and communities across continents, we have witnessed how technology can transform even the most entrenched barriers into opportunities for empowerment.

Equally inspiring has been the launch of the Youth Charter Initiative, where young defenders are building infrastructures to protect children from systemic abuse while educating millions through campaigns, radio, and schools. Their courage reminds us that the fight for justice is not only intergenerational, but also deeply future-oriented. Alongside the Youth Defenders, a movement to protect women in conflict with the law continues to advance with unprecedented momentum worldwide, where women lawyers and defenders are dismantling patriarchal barriers, challenging discriminato-



ry laws, and creating networks of solidarity that extend across borders.

Our country programs, whether in Burundi's police stations, Rwanda's courtrooms, or conflict zones in the Middle East, testify to IBJ's unique ability to operate where others cannot, bridging divides between civil society and state institutions, and ensuring that the fundamental right to counsel is upheld, even under the most fragile conditions. The stories of men, women, and children released from unlawful detention, often with their futures restored against unimaginable odds, remind us why this work matters so profoundly.

This period has also been one of financial renewal and institutional strength. IBJ closed 2024 with a surplus and strengthened reserves, thanks to the unwavering support of our partners, donors, and a growing network of pro

bono lawyers. At a time when many human rights organizations face contraction, IBJ is building the foundations for long-term sustainability.

As Chairman, I am deeply proud of the way IBJ has embraced its 25th anniversary not as a moment of reflection alone, but as a springboard for the future. The vision of systematizing early access to justice across the globe is no longer aspirational - it is within reach. By fusing innovation, local partnerships, and global advocacy, IBJ is showing the world that justice is not a privilege for the few but a right that can be guaranteed for all.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my profound gratitude to our staff, defenders, and supporters. Your commitment fuels our mission and ensures that IBJ continues to be a beacon of hope in a world where hope is too often in short supply.

With resolve,

Daniel R. Fung

Chairman of the Board

International Bridges to Justice



Technology for Access to Justice

How do we move from ad hoc justice interventions to a system that guarantees early access to a lawyer for everyone, everywhere? By building a global digital infrastructure, supported and enhanced by AI.

IBJ's JusticeHub ecosystem, including the Access to Justice (A2J) Mobile App, DefenseWiki, eLearning, and IBJ's pioneering prototype, the Kanoon Varta voice AI assistant, forms the backbone of this digital infrastructure, creating the foundation for scale.

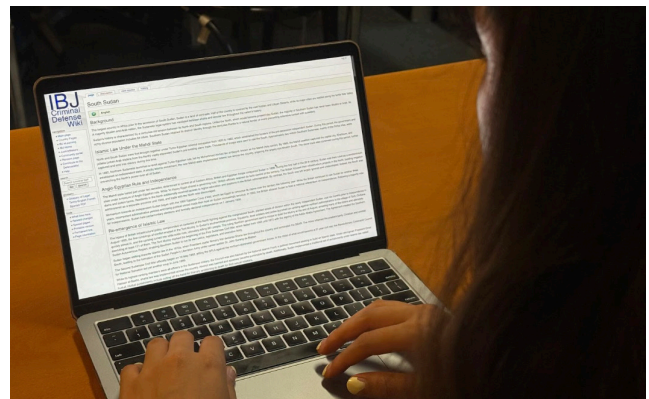
In 2023–24, IBJ made significant advancements across its platforms. With support from the UN Democracy Fund, the A2J Mobile App, originally designed to connect detainees with IBJ defenders, was expanded and upgraded. The enhanced version now enables defenders in seven countries to access pro bono opportunities tailored to their skills, region, and availability. It also integrates training modules to strengthen practical competencies and improve the quality of legal protection. In addition, the app connects defenders with IBJ's fellows network of volunteer lawyers, fostering collaboration through shared resources, experiences, and strategies.

Defense Wiki

IBJ's DefenseWiki provides criminal defense legal information for 169 countries, covering 29 legal topics and thematic areas, with articles available in English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian. In addition, IBJ has developed Criminal Defense Manuals, authored by leading practitioners, for 13 of its active countries, which are distributed globally online. In 2023–24, DefenseWiki received more than 20.5 million visits, bringing total cumulative visits to over 39 million. Looking ahead, DefenseWiki will be upgraded with AI integration to automatically update country-specific legal system information, provide real-time translation, and deliver simplified legal knowledge through a chatbot accessible to ordinary users.

e-Learning

IBJ's eLearning platform, the first global online training system for defense lawyers, has transformed in-person workshops into a scalable digital resource, expanding IBJ's reach from thousands trained live to tens of thousands online. In 2023–24,



Lawyer uses DefenseWiki as part of legal research

the platform underwent a major overhaul, transitioning from Flash to HTML5. This upgrade made it more accessible, secure, and sustainable, ensuring seamless use across phones, tablets, and computers without plugins. It now delivers faster performance, stronger security, and richer interactivity, with over 200 modules optimized for mobile access and supported by enhanced user features. Looking ahead, IBJ will introduce accreditation and certification for lawyers completing structured courses, a critical step toward establishing global defender standards and ensuring consistently high-quality legal defense for all.



Kanoon Varta

Meeting with Delhi State Legal Services Authority

In 2023, IBJ began developing Kanoon Varta, a voice AI assistant that allows prisoners to request case updates orally via phone kiosks. In India, more than half a million people remain in prolonged pre-trial detention, and 70% lack the literacy needed to access even basic case information. Kanoon Varta provides case status, hearing dates, and other

updates in Hindi, based on the prisoner's name or identification number. This system restores a sense of agency and dignity to those navigating the justice system from within prisons. The prototype, now integrated with public court data, was shaped through consultations with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority, Tihar Jail leadership, and the Supreme Court e-Committee.

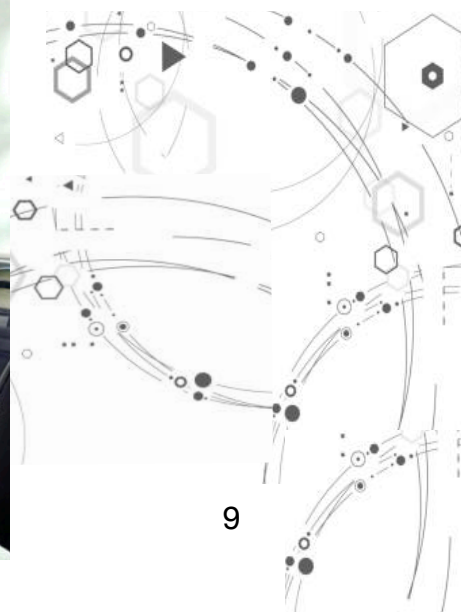
As one official put it :

“ You are giving dignity and power back to those who have none. ”

Together, these innovations form a coordinated suite of digital tools evolving into a global, AI-enabled justice infrastructure. By laying these digital foundations, we are building the architecture to ensure no one faces interrogation or trial without access to a lawyer.



e-Committee's Dr. Parvinder Singh Arora signing Kanoon Varta's Case Information System manual.



Youth Justice Initiative

Launched in 2023, the IBJ Youth Justice Charter, part of IBJ's Youth Justice Initiative, is a youth-led movement fighting to protect the rights of children in conflict with the law across the globe. To date, this work takes place in seven countries—Nigeria, DR Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, India, Myanmar, and Indonesia—guided by 10 original Youth Charter Articles written by our youth team and based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

From 2023 - 2024, efforts led by our 21 young on-the-ground Youth Charter Defenders, resulted in remarkable impact:

Securing the release of **48 children** from detention; _____

Reaching over **7,000 youth** with rights awareness campaigns in schools, prisons, and displacement camps;

Sensitizing **362 adults** including teachers, judicial authorities, and police officers;

Producing radio programs reaching **4.5 million listeners** across DR Congo and Burundi.



The program has developed infrastructures to ensure immediate legal representation for minors, assistance to minor victims in military tribunals resulting in convictions of tortured detained minors, and distribution of hygiene kits to imprisoned girls.

The Youth Charter Initiative is a youth-led community, where our Youth Charter Defenders frequently collaborate on global calls, exchanging ideas and solutions. In the coming years, IBJ aims to expand its youth justice programs to new regions, advocate for child-sensitive policies at national levels, and develop digital tools to support juvenile defenders in remote areas. The Youth Charter Initiative is deepening its connection with schools, starting in Switzerland and the United States, leveraging student leaders in these spaces to support and collaborate with Youth Charter Defenders.



Noel Mbungu, Youth Charter Defender, DRC

A Future Without Bars

Just as we clean the dust from a house
Let us clean society of the injustice towards
children.

Justice for minors, it's washing the wounds,
is to open the window to hope,
to the future.

Every child deserves a chance,
a clear morning, without fear,
without bars, without chains to undo,
for a cleaner world, fairer and more humane.

Let's offer them justice,
Let's offer them hope,
Let's extend a hand to them.



YOUTH JUSTICE

21 DEFENDERS
7 COUNTRIES

CHARTER DEFENDERS

WHERE ARE THEY?



THE CHARTER'S 10 ARTICLES



ARTICLE 1

Every child must have the right to early legal protection and representation at every stage of the legal process.



ARTICLE 2

Every child must not be discriminated against at any stage of the legal process.



ARTICLE 3

Children must not be arrested, tried, or detained as adults.



ARTICLE 4

Every child's pre-trial rights must be respected, notably the informing of rights and the immediate involvement of a parent or guardian.



ARTICLE 5

Every child has the right to a fair and speedy trial under the presumption of innocence.



ARTICLE 6

Imprisonment of children must only be used as a last resort, and if detained, children should always be appropriately documented.



ARTICLE 7

If imprisoned, children's living conditions must not endanger their physical health; they shall be provided with adequate hygiene standards, nutrition, and access to healthcare.



ARTICLE 8

If imprisoned, children's living conditions must not endanger their mental health; they shall be provided access to leisure and visitation, notably from their family as well as psychological and social support.



ARTICLE 9

Children in prison must have protection against physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.



ARTICLE 10

Children in prison must have access to educational resources and undergo a reintegration process with access to psychological and social support after release.



SIGN THE IBJ'S YOUTH JUSTICE CHARTER



Women in Justice

Access to Justice for Women: The Global Picture

Women and girls are the fastest-growing prison population worldwide, with a 57.4% increase since 2000.

The incarceration of women and girls is often linked to poverty-driven survival crimes or discriminatory laws that criminalize abortion, sex work, adultery, or even alleged witchcraft. Once detained, women face heightened risks of gender-based violence, including invasive searches and sexual abuse. Justice systems remain male-dominated, with women comprising less than 25 percent of legal professionals in many countries. Female lawyers themselves often face harassment and intimidation. Without women champions inside the system, structural barriers to equality before the law remain firmly in place.

IBJ's Response



« Without women there can be no justice. »

IBJ has been building a global movement to protect women in criminal justice systems by training women defense lawyers, expanding defender networks, providing pro bono legal aid, and creating platforms for dialogue and reform. The JusticeMakers Fellowship has supported more than sixty women defenders across twenty countries, tackling issues from gender-based violence to discriminatory laws, while IBJ has also launched regional networks in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

Activities 2023 - 2024

Women's Justice in Indonesia



In Indonesia, gender inequities remain stark. More than 400 national and local laws discriminate against women, while cases of gender-based violence reached over 338,000 in 2021 alone. Women make up half the population yet remain underrepresented across the justice chain: only five percent of police officers, 28 percent of judges, and three percent of prosecutors are female. Despite these barriers, women lawyers lead much of the country's legal aid work, often under pressure from patriarchal norms and anti-feminist forces. Against this backdrop, IBJ's Advancing Justice for Women in Indonesia project provided direct legal aid to 912 women and reached 21 million people through awareness campaigns. Sixty-seven reform proposals were submitted to address discriminatory laws, and six memoranda of understanding were signed with detention centers to secure early legal access

for women. IBJ also strengthened networks such as the Indonesia Women Lawyers Network and the Pro Bono Lawyers Network.

Grassroots initiatives brought legal aid to marginalized communities. JusticeMakers Fellows launched projects in regions such as East Nusa Tenggara, Central Java, and Yogyakarta, expanding inclusive services and pressing law enforcement to adopt gender-sensitive practices. IBJ also intervened in urgent cases. After years of abuse, two teenage sisters who acted in self-defense were charged with homicide; IBJ lawyers secured a reduced sentence of two years with access to education and medical care. Similarly, Diah, a young mother misled into unsafe abortion treatment, was arrested and forced to give birth in custody. An IBJ defender intervened, securing her release to a safe house where she could care for her children.



Women's Justice in Rwanda

In Rwanda, Rwanda Bridges to Justice (RBJ) has empowered women lawyers and provided early legal support to women in detention. Through the Women Lawyers Network and rights awareness sessions, RBJ has directly impacted lives. Racheal, a single mother detained for 30 days without counsel, was released after her charge was reclassified. Alida, a widow of six prosecuted for stealing milk, was provisionally released thanks to RBJ's advocacy. In 2024, RBJ co-hosted a national roundtable with the Ministry of Justice and civil society to ensure women's perspectives informed reforms.

Women's Justice in Syria and Turkey

Beyond Indonesia and Rwanda, IBJ has made progress in fragile contexts. In Northwest Syria, two women-led legal offices were established, training more than twenty women lawyers and extending psychosocial support to defenders. In Turkey, three women JusticeMakers Fellows provided legal aid to refugee women and children, addressing barriers such as language and cost while defending survivors of deportation and sexual violence.

Across Indonesia, Rwanda, Syria, Turkey, and beyond, IBJ's work in 2023 and 2024 demonstrates an integrated approach to women's access to justice. By combining urgent defense with preventive education, psychosocial support, systemic advocacy, and women-led networks, IBJ safeguards women's rights while laying the foundation for long-term reform.



OVERVIEW OF COUNTRY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Burundi

Background

When IBJ came to Burundi in 2006, and established its first Defender Resource Center in Bujumbura in 2008, investigative torture was widespread and regular at police stations. By 2009, torture was criminalized under Burundian law. IBJ partnered with the National Human Rights Commission to expand access to legal aid across the country, and together with other local organizations, successfully pushed for the creation of Burundi's first court specifically dedicated to juveniles in 2011. A series of IBJ roundtables on overcoming irregularities in the criminal justice system in 2010 resulted in President Pierre Nkurunziza releasing 1,300 inmates from overcrowded prisons. IBJ's slogan in Burundi – “Freedom is the Rule, Detention is the Exception” – was codified into Article 110 of the Burundian criminal code. IBJ's registered local chapter, Burundi Bridges to Justice (BBJ), remains one of the country's few human rights-related NGOs with unrestricted access to police stations and prisons, due in part to its constructive engagement with the Ministry of Justice and the General Inspectorate of National Police.

To date, BBJ has trained hundreds of the country's lawyers and represented more than 10,000 vulnerable accused individuals. Tailored training for hundreds of police and justice officials have impacted the country's justice environment, building trust between BBJ defenders and justice stakeholders. BBJ's legal rights awareness campaigns have reached over seven million people.

Starting in 2017, BBJ pioneered a program for defenders to visit detainees in police cells in Bujumbura twice per week. These strategic interventions led to the release of hundreds of individuals before they ever faced interrogation or charges at the police stations. Over time, the prison cell visit program gained widespread recognition and created a systemic shift: whereas only BBJ lawyers initially had permission to assist detainees in holding cells, today, all lawyers in Burundi have this right.



Systematic Early Access to Counsel

During 2023 and 2024, BBJ defenders provided legal representation to over 2,500 vulnerable individuals. BBJ's defenders also conducted weekly monitoring visits to over 20 police stations and detention centers in the Bujumbura region and neighbouring communes (Nyabiraba, Kanyosha rural, Kabezi and Mutimbuzi). These visits are critical for documenting due process violations and irregularities affecting individuals detained by the police. BBJ's intervention at the early stages of criminal legal proceedings – often before or during police interrogation, and before formal criminal charges are brought – has secured the immediate release of 130 unlawfully detained people, including 47 women and children. This targeted early action has helped safeguard due process rights and prevent further abuses, from unlawful charges to arbitrarily extended detention.

Capacity Building for Justice Stakeholders

During this same period, BBJ has trained 87 defense lawyers to advance due process and fair trial protections. The sessions emphasized the importance of legal safeguards during interrogations, and stressed that authorities are legally required to provide detainees with access to legal counsel. IBJ has also offered training to the broader community of justice sector stakeholders in Burundi, improving their knowledge of fair trial standards, broadening their understanding on the role of defenders, and fostering a greater collaborative approach to protecting rights of individuals.

Community Engagement and Rights Awareness

Rights awareness campaigns have been a core component of IBJ's work in Burundi. In sum, IBJ has reached over 2 million people through radio broadcasts, community events, and partnerships with local organizations in Burundi. Campaigns have focused on educating citizens about their due process and fair trial rights, including right to legal representation and how to seek legal protection, helping to build public interest in rights protection and empower individuals to advocate for their rights.

Challenges and Adaptation

The Burundian justice system struggles to manage overcrowded detention facilities and limited judicial resources. Economic hardship has further stretched legal aid organizations, making it difficult to meet the rising demand for early legal intervention. IBJ has responded to these challenges by partnering with local NGOs and international donors to sustain its programming.

Future Directions

Moving forward, IBJ aims to expand its systemic impact by introducing early legal intervention programs to more regions of Burundi, despite challenges posed by the current global decline in funding for human rights and rule of law initiatives. Plans include deepening partnerships with local bar associations, expanding training to address juvenile justice issues, and integrating technology into legal aid delivery. These steps will work to close the gap between detainees and defenders, ensuring no one is denied their fundamental right to justice.



Success Stories:



Olivier's Story: From Assault and False Accusations to a Fresh Start

Olivier, a 25-year-old taxi driver living in the bustling city of Bujumbura, found himself in a troubling situation on the night of July 18, 2024 when he and a close friend decided to unwind with a few drinks at a local bar. As the evening progressed and after several drinks, Olivier's friend returned home, leaving Olivier, intoxicated, to continue the evening alone.

The bar staff seized upon Olivier's moment of vulnerability and falsely accused him of stealing five bottles of alcohol and a mobile phone valued at 67,000 BIF. One of the bartenders called in a group of youth affiliated with the ruling political party, who soon arrived and brutally assaulted Olivier. They demanded that he pay back the value of the items he allegedly stole, 150,000 BIF. Without any meaningful choice, Olivier reluctantly agreed to pay this significant sum, hoping this would bring an end to the conflict.

However, his troubles were far from over. The next morning, the bar owner contacted the police, insisting that Olivier be arrested and held responsible for all items reported missing from the establishment the previous night. This marked the begin-

ning of a harrowing ordeal for the young man, who found himself behind bars without the means to defend his innocence.

BBJ lawyers first encountered Olivier, visibly injured and in distress, during a visit to the Bwiza police cells. They quickly engaged in discussions with the on-site judicial police officer, emphasizing that Olivier required medical attention for his injuries. They argued that it wasn't reasonable to hold him accountable for anything that had allegedly gone missing from the bar, especially since he had already paid for the alcohol and phone he was accused of taking.

After thorough deliberations and compelling advocacy by the BBJ lawyers, authorities decided to release Olivier. Once freed, Olivier was finally able to receive necessary medical treatment for his injuries and recover from the physical abuse he suffered. With renewed determination, he was eager to resume his job as a taxi driver, ready to navigate the streets of Bujumbura again. Throughout this ordeal, Olivier's resilience shone brightly, reminding everyone that even in the direst situations, there is hope for justice and healing.



Justice for Cédric: Overcoming Wrongful Accusations and Inhumane Incarceration

Cédric, a 14-year-old boy, recently found himself in a troubling situation emblematic of what vulnerable children in urban areas too often face. Cédric's experience spending two horrific weeks in a police cell dubbed the "dungeon" in Rohero is both a reflection of his circumstances and a stark reminder of the challenges faced by many minors in similar situations.

Cédric, who is from Mugoboka, a neighboring commune of the bustling city of Bujumbura, and whose parents lack the financial means to provide him with basic necessities, made the difficult decision to venture into the city of Bujumbura, seeking assistance from strangers in the hope of gathering enough money to buy food.

While wandering the streets and asking passersby for help, Cédric found himself in front of a supermarket. Unfortunately, this moment would prove to be a turning point in his young life. Security staff accused him of theft, claiming he was part of a group of street children who had stolen three bottles of wine from the establishment. Confused and frightened, Cédric vehemently denied these allegations. Instead of allowing him to make his case at a fair hearing, the guards quickly subjected Cédric to violence, then handed him over to the police.

Cédric went on to endure 14 agonizing days in a cell entirely unsuitable for a child of his age. The

conditions were harsh, and he was incarcerated side by side with adult offenders, putting him in serious physical danger. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, a team of BBJ defenders diligently advocated for Cédric's rights, arguing that as a minor, he could not be held criminally liable and therefore should never have been detained in an adult facility.

The lawyers emphasized the legal and ethical implications of detaining Cédric, asserting that he had been held illegally for an extended period. They insisted that Cédric should be returned to his family and allowed to pursue the judicial process in a more appropriate setting. Moreover, they highlighted the importance of contacting Cédric's parents to inform them of their child's situation, facilitating family reunification.

Fortunately, the court recognized the validity of the defenders' arguments. The police were ordered to release him, and the authorities agreed to return Cédric to his anxious and worried parents. This outcome not only relieved Cédric and his family, but also shone light on the experiences of many children in similar circumstances. Cédric's story is a poignant reminder of the pressing need for better protections and support systems for children in need, and how compassion makes all the difference in securing justice for vulnerable populations.

Cambodia

Background

Less than 30 years ago, Cambodia only had 10 lawyers to serve its population of over 10 million. Since 2005, IBJ has worked to transform the country's criminal justice system, helping to institutionalize state sponsored legal aid and expand access to legal services in remote communities. To accomplish these goals, IBJ Cambodia (CBJ) established six Defender Resource Centers, which have provided legal aid in 22 of 25 provinces. In 2012, a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Justice marked a commitment to providing criminal legal aid services to all Cambodian people. That same year, IBJ established the first legal aid offices in courthouses. IBJ's efforts led to a paradigm shift, with judges and prosecutors now requiring a lawyer for fair trials. The success of IBJ's program model culminated in 2022 when the Bar Association finally adopted its own legal aid mechanisms, establishing a nationwide legal aid scheme supported by both the Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice. In total, CBJ has trained over 750 lawyers, represented over 14,000 vulnerable accused individuals, and reached more than 10 million people through rights awareness campaigns.



2023 - 2024 Activities

In Cambodia, IBJ has strived to confront entrenched challenges in the criminal justice system, focusing on police abuse during arrest and interrogation, the prolonged pretrial detention of vulnerable individuals, and a general lack of access to legal aid. Ongoing political and economic instability has exacerbated these problems and created even greater barriers to justice for marginalized communities.

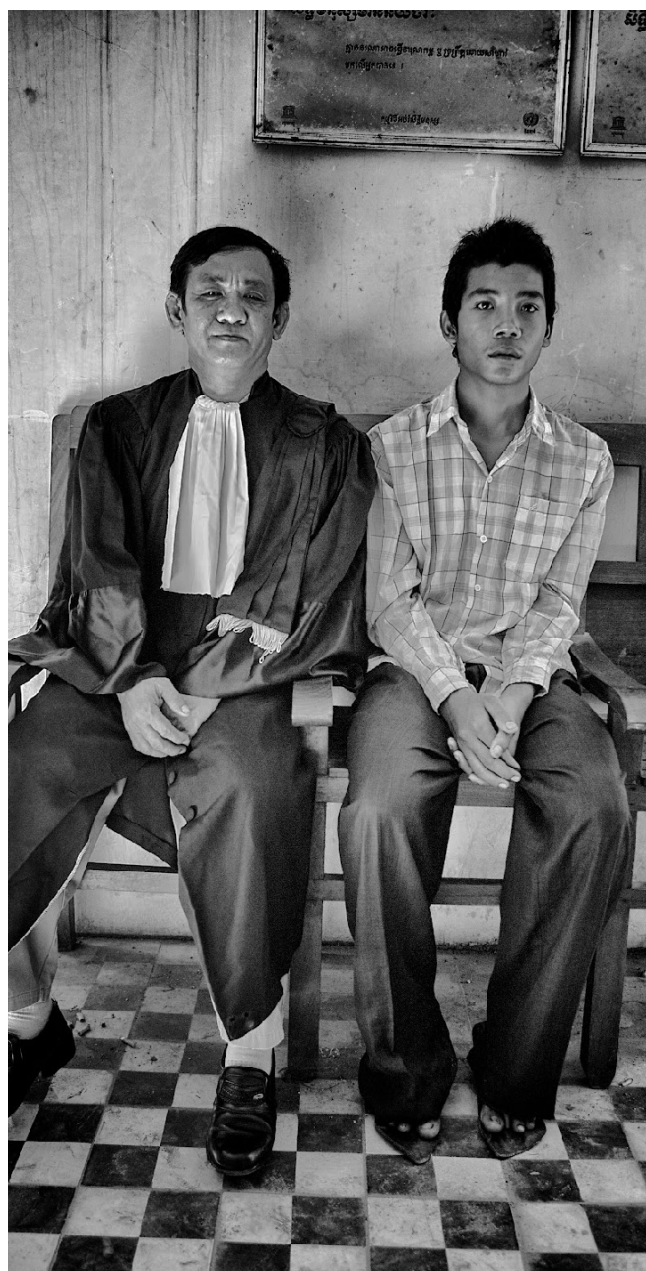
Over the past two years, IBJ-trained defenders have provided legal representation to more than 850 people, with special attention to those held in pre-trial detention. This legal intervention has helped ensure that detainees receive prompt legal counsel, reduce the risk of coercion, and prevent prolonged, unnecessary detention.

Community engagement and education continue to be cornerstones of IBJ's approach. Rights awareness campaigns delivered through radio broadcasts, social media, and community events have reached over 1.5 million Cambodians. By informing citizens about their legal rights, including the right to representation and freedom from unlawful detention, these initiatives have equipped Cambodian citizens to effectively navigate the justice system and seek out legal services.

Despite these achievements, the Cambodian justice system faces persistent obstacles. Limited funding for legal aid, combined with systematic inefficiencies in court proceedings, impedes progress towards just, timely resolution of cases. Economic hardship has further strained public trust in the justice system. IBJ has responded to these challenges by deepening partnerships with local NGOs and government institutions to advocate for broad justice reform and more consistent, targeted allocation of resources to legal aid.

Looking ahead, IBJ intends to expand its reach into rural areas where legal services are currently scarce. By strengthening partnerships with local bar associations and taking advantage of digital tools like eLearning modules, IBJ seeks to equip more defenders with the skills and resources to effectively prepare for trial. IBJ plans to work directly with defense lawyers representing felony cases under the Cambodian Bar Association's legal aid scheme to ensure all individuals facing criminal charges have legal protection. Future training will emphasize the importance of conducting thorough case investigations to uncover any police abuse or coercion that may have occurred during arrest and interrogation and protect detainees from further harm.

In addition, IBJ intends to advocate for policy reforms that reduce the misuse of pretrial detention and ensure that cases are resolved in a timely manner. The organization will train duty lawyers to intervene at the earliest stages of arrest and interrogation. It will also work to provide legal representation for misdemeanor cases in court, which are not currently covered by the Bar Association's legal aid scheme.



The Democratic Republic of Congo

Background

IBJ's work in the DRC started in 2016 with the opening of a Defender Resource Center in Bukavu, in the province of South-Kivu. This center acts as the hub for the activities of IBJ's locally registered chapter, DRCBJ. With 73% of the DRC's prison population made up of pre-trial detainees, DRCBJ provides legal help to individuals who are too poor to otherwise afford a lawyer. DRCBJ's trained lawyers have represented 3,400+ vulnerable accused and touched over four million people through radio legal rights awareness campaigns. In 2021, the Civicus Nelson-Mandela Graca Machel Innovation Awards recognized DRCBJ for its groundbreaking work.



2023 - 2024 Activities

In the DRC, IBJ has focused on addressing critical human rights violations within the criminal justice system. The country's ongoing conflict, coupled with limited judicial infrastructure, has created a justice system where vulnerable populations often face prolonged detention and inadequate legal representation.

Over the past two years, IBJ has provided legal representation to over 1,000 detainees in the DRC, many of whom were held in pretrial detention

without access to legal counsel. Among these were 180 women and juveniles, who are particularly vulnerable to systemic abuses. By ensuring early intervention, IBJ has successfully reduced the duration of pretrial detention for numerous individuals and prevented further rights violations.

Community-based rights awareness campaigns have reached over 3 million individuals across the DRC. These campaigns, conducted through local radio stations and community events, have empha-

sized the importance of knowing one's rights and accessing legal representation. IBJ's efforts have fostered a greater sense of legal empowerment among citizens and strengthened public trust in the justice system.

The DRC's justice system faces ongoing challenges, including overcrowded detention facilities, corruption, and declining financial resources for legal aid. The country's political instability and ongoing conflict have further exacerbated these issues, creating significant barriers to justice. In response to the challenges the justice system faces, IBJ has responded by collaborating with local NGOs, judicial

institutions, and international donors to advocate for systemic reforms and expand its outreach to many underserved regions in the country.

Looking forward, IBJ aims to expand its legal protection programs to reach more remote and conflict-affected areas of the DRC. The organization plans to integrate technology into its operations, including digital case management tools and eLearning platforms for defenders. By scaling its initiatives and building stronger partnerships, IBJ seeks to create a more equitable and accessible justice system in the DRC.



DR CONGO



Success stories:

Mother of Nine Freed After Almost Three Years of Wrongful Detention for False Accusation of Murder

Madame Espé, a 54-year-old farmer and mother of nine, was arrested on July 17, 2021, under mysterious circumstances. According to her account, she was returning from her field after harvesting cassava when police suddenly appeared. Without presenting an arrest warrant or explaining the charges, they transported her by motorcycle to the village chief, who ordered her to go with the police – also without offering any justification.

For an entire year, Espé remained in detention, unaware of what she had been accused of or why she was being held captive. It was only then that she learned about DRCBJ and reached out for legal assistance. Upon investigating her case, DRCBJ discovered that she had been wrongfully accused of murder: a crime of which she had no knowledge. For two years and nine months, DRCBJ fought for her release, tirelessly advocating for her innocence. On March 12, 2024, after nearly three years of legal proceedings, the tribunal acquitted her of all charges. Though deeply affected by the long and unjust ordeal, Espé rejoiced in her long-awaited freedom. With immense gratitude to DRCBJ for their unwavering support, she reunited with her family, who had been waiting for her more than 40 km away from the detention center and welcomed her home with joy and relief.



A Pregnant Mother Falsely Accused of Theft Freed After more than One Year in Prison

Madame Tambu, a 26-year-old mother of four in an advanced stage of pregnancy, was arrested on December 9, 2022 on charges of theft. She remained in detention for 34 days before she was able to contact DRCBJ for legal assistance.

Recognizing the urgency of her condition, DRCBJ petitioned for her provisional release in February 2023, citing her health and pregnancy. However, due to financial constraints, she was unable to secure bail, forcing her to give birth behind bars. For one year and two months, DRCBJ relentlessly fought for her freedom. Tambu was finally fully acquitted on February 8, 2024 after the alleged victim testified that Tambu had not been involved in the theft, thereby proving her innocence.

Once released, Tambu was reunited with her family, and was able to embrace her newborn in freedom for the first time. Overcome with emotion, Tambu expressed profound gratitude to DRCBJ for their dedication to securing her freedom.

Noëlla's Fight for Justice: A Wrongful Arrest Overturned

Noëlla, a 16-year-old student from a struggling family, was arrested by Panzi police in December 2023 on accusations of “pimping.” Without an investigation or legal representation, she was immediately detained at Bukavu’s central prison, where she faced a daunting legal battle alone.

The court appointed a DRCBJ lawyer to defend Noëlla during her trial, recognizing her prior lack of legal support. Through multiple hearings, the lawyer effectively dismantled the accusations, proving that Noëlla had no involvement in the alleged crime.

After three months of unjust detention, on March 7, 2024, the judge declared Noëlla innocent and ordered her immediate release. Thanks to DRCBJ’s unwavering legal advocacy, Noëlla was reunited with her family, overwhelmed with relief and gratitude. With heartfelt appreciation, she thanked DRCBJ for standing by her and ensuring that her rights were upheld.

India

Background

IBJ's India program began in 2008 with an International Criminal Defense Training in New Delhi and the subsequent opening of a Defender Resource Center in Delhi. Since then, IBJ India has worked alongside government institutions and justice stakeholders to advocate for justice and provide early access to a lawyer for the country's most vulnerable accused individuals. As of 2011, the Tihar Jail in Delhi, Asia's largest prison, has opened its doors to IBJ. After recognizing IBJ's work and developing trust in IBJ's India program, the prison now provides resources for regular rights awareness meetings for inmates at the prison that are led by Ajay Verma, IBJ India's country manager. IBJ has trained over 5,000 lawyers in India who have represented more than 19,000 vulnerable accused people. Additionally, nearly 900 justice sector stakeholders have been trained through IBJ India's justice roundtables.



2023 - 2024 Activities

In India, International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) has focused on addressing systemic barriers to justice, such as overcrowded prisons, prolonged pretrial detention, and the lack of legal representation for marginalized communities. These challenges are exacerbated by the country's vast population and significant barriers to access to justice.

IBJ's defenders in New Delhi have provided legal representation to over 400 individuals in the past two years, with a particular focus on those in pretrial detention. Early intervention has been crucial in ensuring detainees receive timely legal counsel and in preventing unnecessary incarceration.

Among these cases, a significant number involved women and juveniles, underscoring IBJ's commitment to protecting vulnerable groups.

Training programs have been a cornerstone of IBJ's efforts in India. During 2023-2024, over 500 lawyers, paralegals, and justice officials have participated in workshops on due process, human rights protections, and strategies for effective legal defense. These programs have not only enhanced the skills of defenders but also promoted collaboration among justice stakeholders to address systemic challenges.

Rights awareness sessions held at Tihar Jail have



educated hundreds of detainees on their due process and fair trial rights. India's justice system faces significant challenges, including a backlog of cases, overcrowded prisons, and limited resources for legal aid. Ongoing economic disparities have further exacerbated these issues, creating substantial barriers to justice for marginalized communities. In response, IBJ has collaborated with local bar associations, NGOs, and government institutions

to advocate for systemic reforms and improve resource allocation for legal aid services.

Looking ahead, IBJ aims to secure more resources to expand its reach to more regions and states across India. The organization plans to leverage technology, including mobile apps and AI tools, to enhance access to justice and provide legal information to less literate detainees in their own languages.

Success Story:

Firoz Alam: Acquittal After 12 Years Justice Delayed, But Not Denied

In 2011, Firoz Alam and five others were falsely accused of murder. Instead of resolving this miscarriage of justice in a just and timely manner, a Firoz was forced to endure an agonisingly slow trial for twelve years. In an enormously wasteful and entirely avoidable process, the prosecution dragged through 38 witnesses, and still absolutely failed to establish sufficient evidence.

Ajay Verma, Firoz's lawyer and IBJ India's Country Director, firmly argued that his client had been wrongfully accused. He pointed out that there was no concrete evidence, and insisted that Firoz should be acquitted of all charges. On March 30, 2024, the long-awaited verdict was delivered: Firoz and three other co-defendants were acquitted of all charges. After being delayed for over twelve years, justice was finally served thanks to IBJ.



Indonesia

Background



Since 2020, IBJ has undertaken significant efforts in Indonesia to address gender-based discrimination and a lack of legal protections for women in conflict with the law. The Indonesian criminal justice system often fails to safeguard the human rights of detained women who are frequently subject to violence, sexual harassment, and overcrowding while imprisoned. Human rights defenders in Indonesia are also routinely subjected to threats, intimidation and harassment because of their work with detainees who are stigmatized for being LGBTQ, drug users, or from other vulnerable social groups. To address these systemic issues, IBJ has collaborated closely with local legal aid foundations, led roundtables with a variety of justice sector stakeholders, and facilitated the creation of fifteen MoUs between detention facilities and legal aid NGOs that ensured unrestricted access to clients. Additionally, IBJ pioneered a groundbreaking training program for over 300 lawyers across Indonesia, shifting the focus from solely assisting victims of gender-based violence to actively preventing further violations during criminal proceedings. Since 2020, IBJ-affiliated lawyers have provided legal representation to more than 1,600 individuals, the majority of whom

are women and children. Their work has uncovered evidence of the systematic criminalization of women, which frequently leads to the re-victimization of survivors of gender-based violence and sexual assault. By convening national and regional justice stakeholders, as well as elevating these issues through the National Networking Forum, IBJ brought national attention to the dangers faced by women in conflict with the law. This effort prompted a renewed commitment from the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) to support victims in rural areas, including plans for a new office in Kupang, NTT.

Community engagement and education have been central to IBJ's approach. Since 2020, rights awareness campaigns, conducted through radio broadcasts, social media, and community events, have reached over 21 million Indonesians. These campaigns have focused on educating the public about their legal rights, including their right to legal representation and protection against unlawful detention. As a result, more individuals are now better equipped to navigate the justice system and assert their rights.



2023 - 2024 Activities

During 2023-2024, IBJ has continued to address systemic challenges within Indonesia's criminal justice system, particularly for women. The organization focuses on issues such as unlawful deten-

pand free legal assistance for vulnerable communities, and creating a peer-to-peer learning space through monthly online events. With over 100 members, the Network is helping to fill a critical

In the past two years, IBJ's defenders in Indonesia have provided legal representation to over 500 individuals, the majority of whom are women, with a strong emphasis on pretrial detainees. Early intervention has been a cornerstone of IBJ's work, ensuring detainees receive timely legal counsel and preventing prolonged and unnecessary detention.

In 2024, IBJ Indonesia launched the Pro-Bono Lawyers Network in partnership with leading legal aid organization LBH APIK Jakarta. The Network has a two-fold goal: building stronger connections between private lawyers and legal aid offices to ex-

Despite these successes, Indonesia's justice system still faces persistent challenges. Limited resources for legal aid and systemic inefficiencies in court proceedings continue to hinder access to justice. Ongoing economic struggles have further strained public confidence in the justice system. In response, IBJ has worked closely with local NGOs and government institutions to advocate for systemic reforms and better resource allocation for legal aid services.

Looking ahead, IBJ plans to expand its reach to more underserved regions across Indonesia where access to legal services remains limited, particularly through its women JusticeMakers initiative, among others. By strengthening partnerships with local bar associations and leveraging digital tools such as eLearning modules, IBJ aims to equip more defenders with the skills and resources needed to tackle systemic challenges. The organization also plans to advocate for policy reforms to reduce the misuse of pretrial detention and ensure the timely resolution of cases.



Success Story:



Defenders Secure Just Treatment for Juvenile Survivors of Abuse

IBJ's partner organization, LBH APIK Jakarta, was called upon to represent two juveniles (aged 16 and 17 at the time of their arrest) who were charged with premeditated homicide of their father. The prosecution sought sentences of 6 and 8 years of imprisonment.

However, LBH APIK lawyers were able to demonstrate that the accused had endured over 14 years of physical and sexual abuse at the hands of their father. There was no evidence to suggest premeditation, and the actions that resulted in their father's death were argued to have been in self-defense. The defense highlighted that the juveniles had acted out of fear and stress after their father, armed with a knife, had threatened them.

After presenting compelling arguments, the court reduced the charges and instead convicted the juveniles under the legal provisions for homicide with mitigating circumstances. They were sentenced to 2 years in the Tangerang Juvenile Correctional Facility, where they would undergo medical rehabilitation for the abuse they suffered, as well as continue their education while incarcerated.

While the Prosecutor has appealed the decision, LBH APIK has filed for a judicial review, hoping for the eventual acquittal of the accused.



Myanmar

Background

IBJ first visited Myanmar in 2011, and in 2013, convened a major legal aid conference, marking one of the earliest discussions between the Myanmar government and civil society about legal aid. Since 2017, IBJ Myanmar (IBJ-M) has been an implementing partner of MyJustice of the British Council for a justice program that includes extensive lawyer capacity building and the establishment and operation of five Justice Centers in five strategic locations. IBJ-M Justice Centers served as key legal service providers amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the military coup in Myanmar. They have become crucial in offering legal aid, especially in areas where government services have failed, earning a strong reputation for handling a wide range of legal issues for the poor and vulnerable.

on shared values allowed participants to overcome past hostility through their commitment to building a shared vision for Myanmar's legal future.

In 2017, IBJ initiated its Myanmar Program, establishing five Justice Centres strategically located in Shan State, Kayah State, Bago State, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw. These centers played a pivotal role in training numerous lawyers and fostering communities of practice, dedicated to offering pro bono legal representation to over 9,000 impoverished and vulnerable individuals. The IBJ-led justice roundtables proved instrumental in building consensus and cultivating trust and confidence between justice officials and defenders. This became particularly crucial following the military coup, during which thousands of young protesters faced arrests



Decades of military rule and human rights violations in Myanmar created a tremendous rift between polarized government and civil society actors, hindering progress toward justice system reform. IBJ Singapore was the first organization that managed to convene a high-level roundtable in 2013, bringing together police, prosecutors and judges with activist lawyers for the first time. The tension between these groups had built over decades, with many defenders having been tortured at the hands of the military police sitting in the same IBJ training room. Despite initial tension, focusing

and torture. Despite Myanmar's rule of law deteriorating, IBJ's efforts harnessing rule of law best practices in the grassroot-level justice actors remained fruitful.

The impact of IBJ's efforts was evident as justice officials, who had participated in the organization's roundtable events, began reaching out to Justice Centres for lawyers to provide defense for arrested protesters. The groundbreaking comprehensive practice manual, created by IBJ and distributed nationwide in 2019, emerged as the cornerstone

resource for defense lawyers across the country in safeguarding the rights of protesters and vulnerable populations.



2023 2024 Activities

In Myanmar, IBJ has continued to operate under challenging conditions amidst political instability and widespread human rights violations. The military takeover of 2021 and subsequent unrest in Myanmar have created significant barriers to justice and left vulnerable populations at risk of systemic abuses and barriers to justice. IBJ has developed a multi-faceted approach to addressing these barriers to justice. Key components of this approach include providing early access to legal representation, legal defender training, rights awareness campaigns for the general public, and working closely with NGOs and CSOs to increase stakeholder participation and collaboration.

Despite significant political setbacks, IBJ's defenders in Myanmar have provided legal representation to over 3,400 individuals during the past two years, including providing humanitarian assistance to 700 detainees facing politically motivated charges. Beyond criminal defense efforts, in 2023 and 2024, IBJ's legal aid helpline was able to rescue three women victims of human trafficking—one was being sold to Oman and two were being taken to the Myanmar-Thai border – and two women hostages impacted by the unlawful conscription law in Mandalay. As evidence of the success IBJ-M has had es-

tablishing successful relationships within the criminal justice system, in 2024 alone, 24% of IBJ-M's criminal cases were referred by judges and court clerks and 20% were by the police department. IBJ lawyers, at the forefront of communities of practice, courageously defended and protected over 1,500 political detainees and prisoners.

Legal defender training programs are one of the most useful tools IBJ employs, helping to build defender capacity and ensure higher quality legal assistance overall. Throughout the last two years, over 300 lawyers, paralegals, law students and human rights defenders have participated in IBJ's capacity building, mentoring and apprenticeship programs in Myanmar.

IBJ's influence in Myanmar extends far beyond the legal defenders who receive training. Through various community engagement efforts and rights awareness campaigns, IBJ has reached over 35,000 individuals across Myanmar. These campaigns, conducted through social media platforms, talk-show programs and community events, have emphasized the importance of knowing one's rights and accessing legal representation. These campaigns aim to educate the public about their basic human and legal rights, and to instill in the community the confidence to defend their own rights. IBJ's efforts have built a greater sense of legal empowerment among citizens and strengthened public trust in the defenders navigating a challenging justice system.

Despite having already made measurable impacts and improvements to the justice system in Myanmar, IBJ recognizes that there is further work to be done. As IBJ continues to work towards a more competent and fairer justice system in Myanmar, there are specific outputs the organization would like to achieve in their future work. IBJ aims to expand its legal aid programs to reach more remote and often conflict-affected areas of Myanmar. The organization also plans to integrate more technology into its operations, which will increase output capacity, improve internal logistics, and allow IBJ to expand operations. IBJ plans to implement digital case management tools and eLearning platforms for defenders, as part of this effort. By increasing the scale of its initiatives, implementing technological assistance platforms, and continuing to foster and strengthen its local partnerships, IBJ seeks to create a more equitable and accessible justice system in Myanmar.

From Accusation to Acquittal: A Daily-Wage Worker's Fight for Justice

In Hpa-an, a daily-wage worker named Si Thu was accused of stealing a motorcycle and charged under Section 380 of the Penal Code, which applies to theft committed in a residence or place where property is kept. Si Thu denied the charge and consistently maintained his innocence. The offense carries a penalty of up to seven years in prison, reflecting the seriousness of theft from a home. For Si Thu, who already struggled to make ends meet, the prospect of such a sentence was devastating.

Unable to afford legal representation, his family turned to IBJ's Hpa-an Justice Center for support. The center's senior lawyer immediately visited Si Thu in jail, took his instructions, and launched a field investigation in the neighborhood where the alleged theft occurred. Through community outreach, the lawyer collected testimonies from neighbors who spoke to Si Thu's good character and willingness to testify on his behalf. On-site observations also revealed inconsistencies between the prosecution's version of events and the actual circumstances at the scene.

The prosecution's case rested almost entirely on the complainant's statement, filed 20 days after the incident, and lacked concrete evidence linking Si Thu to the crime. The lawyer exposed major flaws: the stolen motorcycle was never produced in court, the police line-up process was irregular, and much of the testimony relied on hearsay. Moreover, the complainant's identification of Si Thu appeared to stem more from familiarity, living in the same ward, than from genuine recognition of the suspect.

By carefully highlighting these weaknesses and challenging the credibility of the evidence, the defense dismantled the prosecution's case. Ultimately,

the court acquitted Si Thu. This case demonstrates the life-changing impact of accessible legal aid: through timely action, diligent field investigation, and skilled advocacy, a vulnerable worker who had been wrongfully accused was able to walk free and reclaim his dignity.



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Rwanda

Background

IBJ began work in Rwanda in 2009 and established Rwanda Bridges to Justice (RBJ) as a local autonomous chapter in 2014. RBJ's Defender Resource Center in Kigali acts as the hub for our activities, which include building a supportive community of legal professionals, conducting training for defense lawyers and judges, providing pro bono legal representation to the most vulnerable, and organizing roundtables and rights awareness campaigns to galvanize support for comprehensive legal reform. To date, IBJ/RBJ has trained 500+ justice officials, 1,400+ lawyers, and represented 6,700+ vulnerable defendants. Nearly 8.5 million people have been reached through our legal rights awareness campaigns.

Since the earliest days of the IBJ Rwanda program, IBJ has managed to shift judicial mindsets to allow cross-examination in courtrooms. Today, our task force has the remarkable privilege of accessing all key detention facilities in Rwanda. This unparalleled access is a testament to the collaborative and inclusive convening power that IBJ has wielded

in Rwanda, notably through the successful three-year project, "Implementing Human Rights within the Criminal Justice System in Rwanda." Through this transformative initiative, IBJ brought together judges, prosecutors, police, and prison officials, creating a platform to forge common ground in advancing due process and fair trial rights for the accused and detainees.

In a groundbreaking development in 2021, IBJ introduced a mobile app designed to connect impoverished detainees with IBJ lawyers. The impact was so profound that even prison officials took the initiative to utilize the app installed on their mobile phones, facilitating the connection of inmates with IBJ lawyers. This shift in attitude reflects a significant system change, enabling IBJ to persistently champion the due process and fair trial rights of ordinary Rwandans. The organization's ability to foster transformative change not only underscores its commitment but also highlights its role as a catalyst in reshaping the landscape of legal representation in Rwanda.



2023 - 2024 Activities

RBJ has made significant strides in addressing systemic challenges related to the protection of human rights within Rwanda's criminal justice system. Rwanda has a uniquely tragic history, the repercussions of which still ripple through the justice and prison system today. In light of the historic context for such widespread barriers to justice, RBJ has actively contributed to ongoing efforts to strengthen the justice system and improve access to justice.

RBJ's defenders, a group of whom have grown into a 150+ strong Task Force of volunteers, have provided legal representation to over 1,000 accused and pre-trial detainees in the past two years, 300 of whom are women and juveniles. Early intervention has been a critical component in ensuring detainees receive timely legal counsel at police stations, thereby preventing unnecessary detention.

RBJ implements targeted and accessible legal defender training to strengthen the capacities and effectiveness of current local defenders and over 250 lawyers, paralegals, and justice officials participated in RBJ's training workshops during 2023 and 2024. To address the specific needs of the Rwandan justice system and its participants, these sessions are designed to enhance skills in protecting due process, ensuring human rights protections, and developing innovative strategies for effective

legal defense. These programs have significantly improved the skills of defenders and fostered collaboration among justice stakeholders, including judges, prosecutors, police, and prison officials, to address systemic challenges in protecting due process and fair trial rights.

RBJ's work in Rwanda extends beyond the justice system stakeholders, and also strives to address the legal needs of community members. Community engagement remains a vital part of RBJ's work. During the past two years, rights awareness campaigns shared through local radio broadcasts, social media presence, and community events have reached over 2 million individuals across Rwanda. These campaigns focused on educating citizens about their legal rights, particularly due process and fair trial rights, as well as the availability of free legal aid services through the RBJ Task Force of lawyers.

Rwanda's justice system continues to face significant challenges, making RBJ's work invaluable to bettering the situation for those facing legal injustice. Despite RBJ's continued efforts, Rwanda still struggles with significant and systemic barriers to justice including overcrowded detention facilities, limited resources for legal aid, a shortage of organizations providing criminal legal aid, and systemic



inefficiencies in court proceedings. In response, RBJ has collaborated with local bar associations, especially the Rwanda Bar Association, local NGOs such as iPeace and the Prison Fellowship, and government institutions to advocate for systemic reforms. By partnering with local justice stakeholders, RBJ aims to generate practicable, and widely supported solutions to justice challenges. RBJ is particularly concerned with expanding access to criminal legal aid and advancing the protection of due process and fair trial rights. Through its local partnerships, RBJ increases stakeholder involvement and support in achieving these goals.

In particular, RBJ has worked collaboratively with Rwanda Correctional Services, the Ministry of Justice, Rwanda Police, the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, and the Rwanda Prosecution Authority. RBJ hosts constructive roundtable events to find practical solutions which will ensure early access to counsel for the accused and detained. This collaboration has fostered renewed trust between state institutions and civil society organizations, advancing access to justice in Rwanda.

Success Story: RWANDA

A Father Wrongfully Accused Freed by RBJ Lawyers

In early July 2024, RBJ lawyers learned about the case of Dennis (pseudonym), a father of two and the sole earner for his family. His wife, who is uneducated and a full-time homemaker, depends entirely on him to support their household. Dennis was arrested in Kigali and accused of fraud for allegedly forging a motorcycle driving license. From the moment of detainment and continually during the police investigation, prosecution interrogations, and throughout the court proceedings, he consistently denied the allegations and maintained his plea of not guilty. Critically, Dennis was tried without legal representation and was therefore unable to mount an adequate defense.

Despite this, the court of first instance found him guilty and sentenced him to five years in prison. By that time, he had already spent over two years in pretrial detention awaiting the resolution of his case. While in prison, Dennis learned about RBJ and reached out to its Task Force through Rwanda Correctional Services (RCS), a key stakeholder who actively participates in RBJ's roundtable initiatives.

RBJ lawyers swiftly filed an appeal challenging both the conviction and the severity of the sentence. The Appeals Court ultimately ruled in Dennis's favor, reducing his sentence from five years of imprisonment to a monetary fine. Most significantly, the appellate court ordered his immediate release from the correctional facility.

Syria

Background

IBJ Syria was launched in 2017 with the establishment of a Defender Resource Center in Aleppo. In the context of war, access to justice is often made more difficult, and many regions of Syria are without systemic legal aid, leaving many vulnerable Syrians deprived of legal protections. By strengthening the capacity of Syrian lawyers to provide legal representation pro-bono, IBJ Syria helps to ensure that those accused of crimes, especially the most vulnerable including the displaced, are judged fairly in a court of law. To date, IBJ Syria has trained 250 Syrian lawyers and provided 4,700+ vulnerable people with legal representation. Additionally, 290 justice sector officials have been trained through IBJ Syria's Justice Roundtables. IBJ also developed a JusticeHub Syria App to connect the public needing legal assistance to its community of lawyers.

In 2011, when the country plunged into a long-term civil war, Syria lacked the rule of law and functioning legal institutions. International standards on due process and fair trial rights were unfamiliar concepts for legal professionals and interim government authorities in "liberated areas." Since 2018, IBJ has been driving a paradigm shift by introducing these essential standards through a comprehensive practice manual for defense lawyer, eLearning modules, and in-person and virtual training. A committed community of practicing lawyers, including members from key bar associations in Northeastern Syria like the Free Aleppo Bar Association (FABA), have embraced these international standards, making them mandatory training requirements for young lawyers and establishing a systematic approach to maintaining elevated legal defense standards. Despite operating in conflict zones with compromised security and

limited resources, these courageous defenders have convened justice officials, including judges, prosecutors, police, and prison officials, through collaborative roundtable events to educate them about international norms and standards, emphasizing their integration into institutional practices.

Today, a functioning justice system exists in Northeastern Syria, where IBJ lawyers systematically visit key police stations and detention facilities, providing free legal representation to detainees while holding justice officials accountable to international due process and fair trial standards. This innovative legal development, led by a committed group of lawyers, is unprecedented in Syria, functioning not only in liberated areas but also making legal resources available for all other areas. This remarkable progress, unfolding in the midst of conflict, highlights the lasting impact of IBJ's initiative on the legal landscape in Syria.

2023 - 2024 Activities

IBJ Syria continues to operate under extremely challenging conditions marked by ongoing conflict and widespread human rights violations, often resulting in systemic barriers to justice. Political instability and ongoing crises in Syria have displaced millions of Syrians. This leaves many in increasingly vulnerable positions facing significant legal and social challenges. In response to the current situation, IBJ has prioritized providing legal representation, empowering local defenders, and advocating for systemic reforms aimed at protecting due process and fair trial rights.

Over the past two years, IBJ has provided legal representation to more than 1,240 individuals

across Syria, including 250 women and children. Throughout its work, IBJ has fostered a successful partnership with the local organization, the FABA. By collaborating with FABA, IBJ is able to provide increasingly effective solutions, responsive to the changing environment in Syria. Many of the cases handled by IBJ and FABA involved political detainees, who face additional vulnerabilities within the justice system. Early intervention has been crucial in ensuring detainees, especially those facing political charges receive early legal counsel, protecting them from further rights violations, and advocating for fair trial standards as their cases progress

As part of its ongoing mission to partner with and strengthen local defense capabilities, IBJ has trained 120 lawyers, paralegals, and justice officials. These workshops focus on building local defender capacity and promote strategies for defending due process and fair trial rights, preventing investigative torture, and promoting broader access to legal protection. These capacity-building efforts have enhanced local defenders' abilities to navigate the challenging criminal justice system.

While strengthening existing legal mechanisms, IBJ also empowers local communities to understand and exercise their rights. In Syria, IBJ reached over one million people through community-driven campaigns, including a major collaboration with Rozana Radio that spread legal rights awareness nationwide. These efforts, ranging from

radio campaigns to local outreach events and partnerships with grassroots groups, have educated citizens on their rights, the value of legal aid, and due process. By fostering legal awareness and building local capacity, IBJ has advanced public knowledge of human and legal rights, even in conflict-affected regions.

Syria's justice system struggles with overcrowded detention facilities, corruption, and limited access to legal aid--challenges deepened by the conflict. To confront these barriers, IBJ partners with international donors, local NGOs, and judicial institutions to expand program reach, strengthen defense mechanisms, and drive systemic justice reform.

IBJ plans to expand its operations to more regions in Syria, particularly following significant political changes in the country in December 2024. With the successful implementation of its model in Northwest Syria, IBJ is poised to replicate this approach in other regions, contingent on sufficient resources and funding. The organization also aims to increase its focus on juvenile justice and gender-sensitive legal practices. In the current context of "free" Syria, true freedom can only be achieved through the establishment of security and an effective, transparent legal system that upholds human rights.



Success Story:

Swift Legal Intervention Saves 13-Year-Old from Injustice

Omar (a pseudonym) is a 13-year-old boy from a displaced family originally from southern rural Aleppo. His family was forced to flee their home due to war and heavy bombardment in their area, eventually settling in a displacement camp. With limited resources, Omar's father, who works irregular daily labor without a stable income, struggled to support his family of nine. In an effort to make ends meet, he had no choice but to allow Omar, the eldest child, to work at a local car wash. This responsibility placed immense pressure on Omar, a child who was forced to shoulder burdens far beyond his years.

In the absence of stability and a supportive environment, Omar became involved with a group of boys who were negative influences. Eventually, he found himself participating in the theft of a motorcycle from outside a house. A few days later, surveillance cameras identified the group, leading to Omar's immediate detention on theft charges. He spent seven days in detention, while his family was unable to provide legal help.

A concerned neighbor learned of Omar's situation and reached out to a member of IBJ's defender team in Syria, who intervened quickly, providing Omar with much-needed legal support.

Thanks to the swift intervention, Omar was released after just seven days of detention. The court took into account the harsh circumstances Omar and his family were facing. Thanks to their efforts, Omar was released, and his family received the assistance they needed during such a challenging time.

Additionally, the IBJ team provided guidance and advice to the family, helping them create a more stable environment for Omar and prevent similar issues in the future. Omar's family expressed their heartfelt gratitude to their lawyer and the IBJ team for their action, thorough follow-up, and support.



Turkey

Background

IBJ's work in Syria addresses the discriminatory treatment faced by over 3.5 million Syrian refugees in Türkiye in navigating the justice system. IBJ took transformative action by collaborating with three key Bar Associations in the eastern region, Gaziantep, Kilis and Sanliurfa. Over 450 Turkish lawyers were trained by IBJ to champion the due process rights of Syrian refugees. This dedicated group of Turkish lawyers played a crucial role in providing legal protection to more than 500 Syrian refugees, particularly during arrests and detentions at police stations, where instances of abuse were most prevalent. Recognizing the broader issue of the lack of early legal intervention affecting not only Syrian refugees but also a significant portion of underprivileged Turkish citizens, IBJ created a practice manual explaining defense standards for all those who are detained. These interventions not only safeguarded the due process rights of Syrian refugees but also prevented their transfer to deportation centers and involuntary repatriation to Syria, a previously common practice.

IBJ's comprehensive rights awareness campaigns, reached over 1.3 million individuals, not only educating Syrian refugees about their legal rights in Turkey but also serving to enlighten Turkish justice officials about their legal obligations to protect due process rights of everyone in Turkey regardless of their nationality. IBJ's interventions in Gaziantep, Kilis, and Sanliurfa regions enabled early

access to hundreds of Syrian refugees who, otherwise, would have faced deportation, and made millions aware of their rights under Turkish law.

2023 - 2024 Activities

IBJ Turkey has focused on addressing systemic barriers to justice, which are compounded by the country's economic challenges and the large influx of refugees. With over 3.5 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, the legal system is under immense strain, creating significant barriers for marginalized groups seeking justice. Turkey's justice system faces ongoing challenges, including political interference, cultural biases, overcrowded detention facilities, arbitrary actions against refugees, and limited resources for legal aid. IBJ has provided legal representation to over 300 individuals in Turkey over the past two years, prioritizing refugees, women, and juveniles. Early intervention has been central to IBJ's approach, ensuring detainees receive legal counsel shortly after their arrest. This approach has been effective in preventing abuse at police stations, reducing the duration of pretrial detention, and ensuring due process and fair trial rights for vulnerable groups. Early intervention has been especially helpful at preventing the common practice of forcibly deporting Syrian refugees who are arrested or accused of a crime.



Success Story:

From Desperation to Hope: A Syrian Refugee's Journey Through Legal Assistance

When IBJ's lawyer arrived at the deportation center in Gaziantep, she spotted her client, a widow with two young children, sitting alone, with no one to turn to as she awaited deportation. The woman had reached out to IBJ through their special mobile app created for Syrian refugees in Turkey. As soon as she saw the lawyer, her face lit up, and a wave of relief seemed to wash over her.

The lawyer approached and spoke to her through a translator, as the woman didn't speak Turkish. She explained her worries, focusing on her children's safety and her own vulnerability as a single mother in Gaziantep. The lawyer listened closely, offering reassurance and promising to do everything possible to help. The woman's lawyer gathered the required documents from the deportation center and filed an appeal with the Criminal Court of Peace to overturn the administrative detention decision. She also lodged a case with the Gaziantep Administrative Court to challenge the deportation order.

Although the annulment case was still in progress, the lawyer was overjoyed when the woman was released from the deportation center. The woman immediately reached out to thank her, expressing deep gratitude for the support. She also spoke about how crucial the IBJ project had been, stressing the value of free legal representation for refugees and the importance of the mobile app in guiding people through the legal system especially for those in vulnerable situations like hers.



Tunisia

Background

In March 2023, IBJ launched the “Advancing Access to Justice in Tunisia” (AAJT) project with funding from the United Nations Democracy Fund. The initiative aimed to strengthen Tunisia’s criminal justice system by integrating technology and ensuring access to competent legal representation. Focused on supporting both lawyers and marginalized individuals facing criminal charges, AAJT expanded access to justice in criminal cases by training lawyers, equipping them with practical tools, raising awareness of legal rights and services, and providing detainees with representation. These efforts are carried out in collaboration with local partners, especially the National Bar Association of Tunisia (Ordre National des Avocats de Tunisie, ONAT), the Tunisian Young Lawyers Association (Association Tunisienne des Jeunes Avocats, ATJA), the

2023 - 2024 Activities

Since the launch of the project in 2023, IBJ has supported the legal defense of 256 individuals through direct representation and targeted capacity-building initiatives. A total of 115 defense lawyers were trained in rights-based criminal defense, equipping them with essential knowledge in areas such as pretrial advocacy, evidentiary standards, sentencing, and appeals.

To support defenders in their work, IBJ developed and distributed over 1,000 printed copies of the Tunisia Criminal Defence Practice Manual, a comprehensive guide addressing procedural and substantive criminal law in Tunisia. This resource remains freely available in both print and digital formats, equipping lawyers with the tools needed to navigate a complex and evolving legal landscape.

Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Économiques et Sociaux, FTDES), and the National Center for State Courts.

IBJ’s work builds on broader reforms in Tunisia that have advanced human rights protections, particularly for women. Yet systemic challenges persist, including high pretrial detention rates, prison overcrowding, and limited access to legal aid. In 2024 it was reported that pretrial detainees made up 54% of the prison population, while overall prison occupancy stood at 180%. With this in mind, AAJT sought to ensure that vulnerable accused individuals receive timely and effective legal representation, while reinforcing the capacity of the criminal defense system to address these urgent needs.

The launch of IBJ’s Access to Justice App further enhanced case management and calendaring for defense lawyers, improving the efficiency of legal service delivery.

IBJ also advanced public awareness of legal rights by launching a national campaign that highlighted due process and fair trial rights, ultimately reaching more than 800,000 people. Through strategic media outreach and community events, the campaign strengthened public understanding of the right to legal representation and protections against unlawful detention.

A core focus of IBJ’s work in Tunisia was the empowerment of young and emerging legal professionals. In collaboration with the Young Lawyers Association, IBJ delivered tailored mentorship and



training to cultivate a new generation of community-minded lawyers with a strong foundation in rights-based defense. Special efforts were made to engage women in the legal profession, with 64 women lawyers, representing over 56% of all trainees, participating in IBJ's capacity-building programs. These initiatives not only supported legal empowerment but also helped challenge gender-based barriers within the criminal justice system.

Despite progress, Tunisia continues to face significant obstacles in ensuring equal access to legal aid. IBJ remains committed to closing these systemic gaps through continued collaboration with national stakeholders and the development of innovative legal tools, ensuring that every accused person, particularly women and youth, has access to quality legal representation and a fair trial.

Success Story: Defending Wrongfully Accused Textile Workers



In Monastir, a group of female textile workers faced false accusations of theft and property damage after demanding better wages. Among them was “Sabiha M.” from Sahline, who was detained from the outset of the case. With limited education, precarious earnings, and no legal support, she was overwhelmed by the judicial process. She then learned about FTDES's free legal assistance and got in touch with the organization. Through the intervention of FTDES lawyers under IBJ's AAJT project, a dedicated young lawyer, also a member of the Young Lawyers' Association of Tunisia, took on her case and provided legal defense. The lawyer's efforts led to her full acquittal, enabling her to find work elsewhere and continue supporting her family. For the lawyer, the case was a powerful reminder of the profound impact legal defense can have, reinforcing their commitment to pro bono work for vulnerable individuals.



China

Background

IBJ's work in China began in 2001 with a signed Memorandum of Understanding with China's Ministry of Justice to open Model Legal Aid Centers in Anhui Province, train legal aid lawyers, and develop criminal defense learning tools and resources. Over the years, IBJ has also partnered with the All China Lawyers Association, regional bar associations, justice bureaus, law firms, prominent universities and law schools, and key civil society organizations. Since then, IBJ China has conducted transformational work that has trained 30,000+ lawyers and 9,100+ justice officials. We have represented the cases of 186,000+ vulnerable accused and reached 11+ million people in all 32 provinces and autonomous regions of China through rights awareness campaigns.

IBJ's many projects over the years have contributed to significant advances in the Chinese criminal justice system. Our 2006 Pre-Trial pilot project in Shijiazhuang and 2010 Duty Lawyer pilot program in Shaanxi Province laid the groundwork for the 2018 creation of a nation-wide Duty Lawyer scheme now codified in China's Criminal Procedure Law. IBJ China's juvenile justice project which began in 2006 and spearheaded early access to counsel for juveniles, provided a model approach incorporated into the Criminal Procedure Law in 2012. The new provisions allowed for an Appropriate Adult (such as a family member or adult from the child's school, community, etc.) to accompany unrepresented minors as early as the first police interrogation, and mandated assigning a legal aid lawyer whenever a juvenile suspect is unrepresented.

Beginning in 2010, IBJ expanded our work using new technologies and digital platforms. In cooper-

ation with the All China Lawyers Association, IBJ created an eLearning platform with online training resources in criminal defense skills. In 2019, we introduced our first digital rights awareness tool on the rights of juveniles, reaching over 23,000 people. Since then, IBJ has continued to support lawyers and advance justice using innovative digital tools.

2023 - 2024 Activities

In 2023-2024, IBJ continued to build on over two decades of work in strengthening the legal system and advancing access to justice in China. Leveraging new technologies, IBJ trained over 5,600 people through eLearning and reached over 20,000 people with digital legal rights awareness campaigns.

In 2023, IBJ developed and launched Barrier-Free Justice. This is IBJ's online interactive educational platform raising awareness about the legal rights of people with disabilities in the criminal justice system. The platform showcases three different scenarios and invites viewers to answer True-or-False questions about the legal rights of the main characters in each scenario. The scenarios feature a woman who is deaf being detained by police on suspicion of petty theft, a person with a mental illness causing a public disturbance in a grocery store, and a defendant in need of a mental health assessment. To ensure the campaign reaches people with disabilities, we engaged with the disability community for feedback and intentionally incorporated accessibility features such as color contrast and simple line-art details accessible for people with visual disabilities, and user-experience optimizations which allow the game to be readable for screen-readers.

IBJ's Barrier-Free Justice project has reached over

20,000 individual viewers since its initial launch. Of these, 17% who provided socio-demographic data identified as a person with a disability, and 7% as either a caretaker or family member of a person living with a disability. Our in-game polls embedded in the platform showed positive outcomes – 90% of respondents said they knew more about the rights of persons living with disabilities after playing the game, and 87% reported having greater levels of sympathy towards the difficulties people with disabilities face in accessing their legal rights.

IBJ also created 10 new online training courses for lawyers on a wide range of topics in response to new developments in Chinese law and legal practice. One module trains lawyers on how to obtain bail for clients in light of new regulations enacted in 2022 which expanded the applicability of bail as well as loosened residency requirements for people to qualify for bail. Our module on Legal Aid Representation at the Death Penalty Review Stage was written in response to the 2022 Legal Aid Law which permits legal aid representation for the first time at this stage in death penalty cases. This module helps lawyers understand their rights at the death penalty review, the procedural steps involved, and substantive considerations. The module on How to Conduct Remote Advocacy addresses best practices and potential pitfalls to avoid when representing clients in online hearings, which has become much more common since the pandemic. Our module on Cross-Cultural Representation Skills examines the importance of understanding culture and how cultural differences can impact the client's relationship with the police, the prosecutor, the judge, and even their own lawyer. It provides tips on how lawyers can learn about a client's culture, and gives a brief introduction to the concept of cultural defenses. This module is particularly relevant for lawyers working in China's western provinces which have a high population of ethnic minorities.

IBJ also created two new series of eLearning courses. The first is a four-part series on negotiation skills which covers basic negotiation concepts such as how to identify the interests of the other party, how to separate interest from positions, how to identify alternatives to a negotiated agreement, and how to generate workable options. They also take lawyers through hypothetical scenarios, such as negotiating with a key but reluctant witness who can testify to a client's alibi, while applying these concepts. The second series focuses on the role of the duty lawyer and equips duty lawyers in the daily management of cases, provides them with a list of rights they should cover when meeting with clients, and suggests practical tips for how to interact with prosecutors, court staff, detention center officials, and the justice bureau. These 10 new eLearning courses were added to IBJ's library of over 100 online modules for Chinese lawyers. During 2023 and 2024, we logged over 24,600 accesses to these modules, reaching over 5,600 unique users.



Financial Report

In 2024, IBJ closed the year on a stronger financial footing, marked by both growth and stability. Total revenues rose to USD 4.96 million, a 25% increase from 2023. This growth was powered by new multi-year contracts in MENA and Asia and a surge in in-kind support from IBJ's global network of lawyers. Together, these gains more than offset declines in unrestricted donations, leaving the organization well-positioned for the future.

One of the most striking developments was the increase in project-specific contributions, which grew by 44.3%. These long-term commitments not only strengthen IBJ's programs but also provide greater predictability for the communities we serve. In-kind donations also continued to climb, with a 20.7% increase reflecting the increase of cases taken on a pro-bono basis by IBJ's lawyers community, who are carrying our mission into courtrooms around the world.

While revenues grew, IBJ kept a close eye on costs. Field programs remained the core of spending, with over USD 4.2 million directed to in-country expenses. At the same time, administrative costs—salaries, professional fees, and operations—fell sharply, underscoring IBJ's commitment to lean and efficient management. This careful balance enabled the organization to achieve a net surplus of USD 663,259, a strong turnaround from the previous year's deficit.

Some financial highlights include:

Revenues up 25%, reaching nearly USD 5 million.

In-kind donations increased by 20.7%, driven by pro bono casework.

Administrative costs decreased, making programs more cost-effective.

Net surplus of USD 663,259, reversing a significant deficit in 2023.

Looking forward, IBJ's priority will be to expand multi-year partnerships that provide steady, sustainable funding for its growing global work. With strengthened reserves and long-term contracts in place, IBJ is entering 2025 with renewed momentum, and with deep gratitude to every donor and partner who makes this mission possible.

Revenues (USD)	2023	2024
Donor-unrestricted contributions	325,476	141,333
Donor-unrestricted contributions for specific projects	1,794,058	2,588,497
In-kind donations	1,844,784	2,225,901
Other income	1,627	4,531
Total revenue	3,965,945	4,960,262
Expenses		
In-country expenses	3,937,709	4,235,597
Salaries and social charges	481,139	386,301
Professional fees	44,098	10,396
General office expenses	29,892	12,541
Meetings and conferences	31,301	12,489
Other costs	-1,008	29,882
Total project and admin costs	4,523,131	4,687,206
Exchange rates (gains)/ losses	2,089	7,477
(Gain)/ loss on investment	301	(2,666)
Total financial costs	2,390	4,811
Prior year adjustment		-395,014
Total expenses	4,525,521	4,297,003
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(559,576)	663,259

Assets		
Cash	247,277	723,012
Other current assets	379,440	155,458
Total current assets	626,717	878,470
Total non-current assets	55,584	24,100
Total assets	682,301	902,570
Liabilities		
Short-term liabilities	511,055	68,064
Profit/ (loss) brought forward	171,246	834,506
Total liabilities and equity	682,301	902,570

IBJ Governance

Board of Directors

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Nop Kunthol
Men Phearun
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Long Savoeun
Ouk Vandeth

Chan Vanny
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Myanmar

Hla Ko
Khin Moe Moe
Ye Thant Zin
Kyi Suu
May Mon Kyaw Kyaw
Su Thwe Phyo
Khin Myat Thu
Shon Lae
San Kyi
Kyu Kyu Lwin
Khin Moe Moe Aye
Win Nandar Htut Khaung
Wint Wint Aye

Aung Myo Aye
Win Min Aung
Su Lwin Myint
Yu Yu Win
Naw Valentina
Mya Phyo Eain
Thet Naing Htun
Soe Moe Aung
Chit Su Myat Thwe
Khin Thandar Myo
Khun Nway Oo
Nang Sandar Aye
Kyaw Zin Oo
Naw Kaneh Saw Naing
Zin Than Yee
Kyaw Zeyar Aung
Ei Thandar Htet
Wint Phyu Lin
Khun Than Htoo
Saw Htet Lin Htoo
Chan Myae Aung
Than Kyaw Htut
Nilar Htun Min
Yin Min Htoo
Chan Myat
Thwe Hnin Aye
Khin Ma Ma Win
Wai Wai Khaing
Ju Mee Mee
Nang Wine

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Sri Lanka

Sutharshana Jeyaseelan
Thaksamine Navanathan

Anuradha Rasnayake
Purathany Sivalingam
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Mauro Rosato
Agnes Sjoblad
Genevieve Vogel
Laura Wenzel

IBJ Partners

International

AABA ROLI / American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI)
A4ID, United Kingdom
Advocacy Forum, Nepal
Afghanistan Human Rights Organization (AHRO)
Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA)
African Democracy Forum
African HIV in Prisons Partnership Network
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group)
AIDSPortal
Aleppo Bar Association
American Express Travel Services
Apax Foundation
Ashoka
Asia Justice And Rights (AJAR)
Asian Philanthropy Forum
Aspen Institute
Association of NGOs against Trafficking of Persons in Central Asia
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
AVERT
Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)
BABSEACLE, Myanmar
Bahrain Center for Human Rights
Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights
Book Aid International
Bridgeway Foundation
Broadwell Foundation
CIVICUS
Columbia Law School
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
East Africa Law Society
East-West Management Institute
Echoing Green
Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education

European Commission (EuropeAid), Brussels
 Ford Foundation
 International Bar Association Charitable Trust
 International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)
 International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)
 International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC)
 International Legal Foundation (ILF)
 International Rescue Committee (IRC)
 International Senior Lawyers Project
 International Telecommunications Union
 Open Society Institute (OSI)
 Open Society Justice Initiative
 Penal Reform International, Central Asia Office
 Prison Reform Trust
 Rule of Law Expertise UK (ROLE UK)
 Skoll Foundation
 Stanford University
 United Nations bodies (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNJHRO, UNOHCHR, UN Women, UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, MONUSCO, etc.)
 World Economic Forum (WEF)
 World Justice Project
 Yale University, USA

Corporate Partners

Allen & Gledhill LLP
 Allen & Overy
 American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore
 BBVA Compass
 Belmatech SA
 Capital Group
 Chemonics (Mov4Ward), Myanmar
 Clifford Chance LLP
 Dell
 Google / Google Foundation
 Goldman Sachs
 Hewlett Packard (HP)
 Infomaniak
 Microsoft
 SingTel, Singapore
 Sunny Vista Realty, Inc.

UBS
 United Parcel Service of America, Inc. (UPS)

Institutional Partners

Agence suédoise de coopération internationale au développement (ASDI)
 Belgian Technical Cooperation in Burundi
 British Council, Myanmar
 British Embassy, Beijing
 British High Commissions (Kigali, Singapore)
 City of Geneva, Switzerland
 Delegation of the European Union to Indonesia
 EuropeAID / European Union Delegation to Rwanda
 Global Affairs Canada, Canada
 Swiss Development Cooperation
 Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
 US Department of State (DRL, INL)
 USAID, Myanmar

Law Firms

Ashurst
 Certa Law Firm
 Dacheng Law Firm, China
 Dalian Lawyers Association, China
 Dechert
 DLA Piper
 Drew & Napier LLC, Singapore
 Herbert Smith Freehills
 Hogan Lovells
 Jones Day
 K&L Gates
 King & Spalding
 Linklaters
 Latham & Watkins LLP, Singapore
 Matrix Chambers
 Paul Hastings LLP
 Rajah & Tann LLP, Singapore
 Reed Smith LLP
 RHTLaw Taylor Wessing

Ropes and Grey
Shearman & Sterling LLP, Singapore
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Vitt & Rattigan

Burundi

Institutions

Burundi Bar Association
Belgian Technical Cooperation in Burundi
Consulate General of UK, Burundi
Dutch Embassy, Burundi
General Inspectorate of National Police, Burundi
Ministry of Interior, Burundi
Ministry of Justice, Burundi
Ministry of Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, Burundi
National Independent Human Rights Commission (NIHRC), Burundi

NGOs

Abusua Foundation
Action pour la Promotion et la Défense des Droits des Personnes Défavorisées (APRODEPED)
Association Burundaise pour la Défense des droits des Prisonniers (ABDP)
Association des Femmes Juristes du Burundi
Association des Juristes Catholiques du Burundi (AJCB)
Ligue Iteka
L'Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (ACAT) Burundi
L'Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Droits Humains et des Personnes Détenues (APRODH)
la Maison Shalom
Observatoire Ineza pour la Protection des Droits de l'enfant au Burundi (OIDEB)
Spirit in Action, Burundi
Unissons nous pour la Promotion des Batwas (UN-IPROBA)

Cambodia

Institutions

Bar Association, Cambodia
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cambodia
Ministry of Interior, Cambodia
Ministry of Justice, Cambodia

NGOs

Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)
Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC)
Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)
Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)
Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC)
Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (Comfrel)
Community Legal Education Center (CLEC)
Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)
Equitable Cambodia
Legal Support for Children and Women (LSWC)
NGO Forum, Cambodia
Protection of Juvenile Justice (PJJ), Cambodia
Samreth Law Group, Cambodia
Vigilance, Cambodia
Vishnu Law Group, Cambodia

China

Institutions

All China Lawyers Association
Beijing Migrant Workers Legal Aid Center
Beijing Shangquan Law Firm
Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Consulting Services Center
China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

China Criminal Clinical Legal Educators (CCCLE)
China Law Society
China Police University, Chenyan
Dalian Lawyers Association
Shaanxi Lawyers Association and affiliated law firms
(Fazhi, Fengrui, Gengmin, etc.)
Shenzhen Lawyers Association
Many provincial and city justice bureaus and procuratorates (e.g., Wuhan, Shijiazhuang, Liaocheng)

Universities

Beifang Minorities University
China University of Political Science & Law
Donghu University
Lanzhou University of Finance and Economics
Nanyang Institute of Technology
Peking University Law School
Renmin University of China
Tsinghua University Law School
Wuhan University School of Law
Zhejiang University Law School

India

Institutions

Bar Council of Delhi
Delhi High Court Legal Services Authority
Delhi Legal Services Authority
Delhi Prisons (Tihar Prison)
Gems & Jewellery Skill Council of India
Rajasthan Prisons / State Legal Services Authority
West Bengal Correctional Services

NGOs

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
India Vision Foundation
Migration & Asylum Project (MAP)
National Forum On Prisons Reforms
Turn Your Concern Into Action (TYCIA), India

Universities

Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi

National Law School of India University (NLSIU)
National Law University, Delhi
OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat
Rabindra Bharti University, Kolkata

Tata Institute of Social Sciences
WB National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS)

Indonesia

Institutions

Kementerian Hukum dan HAM (Ministry of Law and Human Rights)

Ministry of Women and Children, Indonesia

NGOs

Democratic Alliance for Papua (Aliansi Demokrasi untuk Papua)
LBH APIK Jakarta
LBH APIK NTT
LBH APIK Sulsel
Yayasan Embun Pelangi Batam
Women's Crisis Center Jombang

Universities

Diponegoro University
Universitas Gadjah Mada
Universitas Padjadjaran

Rwanda

Institutions

Kigali Bar Association / Rwanda Bar Association (RBA)
Ministry of Justice, Rwanda
Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS)

NGOs

Certa Foundation, Rwanda
Citizen Rights and Development (CRD), Rwanda

Dignity in Detention, Rwanda

Easy and Possible, Rwanda

Empower Rwanda (ER)

Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (Ipeace), Rwanda

PAX PRESS, Rwanda

Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR)

ROPD (Rwanda Org. for Deaf & Blind)

Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC)

Stand for People Sustainable Development, Rwanda

Women with Disabilities Organization, Rwanda

Young Lawyers Association of Rwanda

Singapore

Institutions

Association of Criminal Lawyers, Singapore

Changi Prison, Singapore

Economic Development Board of Singapore

Law Society of Singapore

Singapore Cooperation Program (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO)

Singapore Economic Development Board

National Youth Council, Singapore

Universities

National University of Singapore, Lee Kwan Yew

School of Public Policy

Singapore Management University, Lee Kong Chian School of Business

Turkey

Institutions

Gaziantep Bar Association

Kilis Bar Association

Sanliurfa Bar Association

Zimbabwe

Institutions

Law Society of Zimbabwe

NGOs

Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO)

Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

Zimbabwe Young Lawyers Association

Sanlifula Bar Association



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